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**SUBJECT:** **ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICAL GUIDE 0004 (January 1, 2005)**  
**Change in the Thermal Performance Construction Standard for New**  
**Manufactured Housing Financed by Rural Housing Service Single Family**  
**Housing (SFH) and Multi-Family Housing (MFH) Programs**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Architectural Technical Guide (ATG) is to discuss a major change which occurred in 1999 to the thermal performance construction standard for new manufactured housing financed by the USDA/Rural Development under its SFH and MFH programs and to provide Colorado-specific thermal data for use in implementing the new standard that went into effect.

**IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Please reference the Special Procedure Notice which was issued on October 4, 1999 and provided a two-page insert for Exhibit D of RD Instruction 1924-A, "*Planning and Performing Construction and Other Development*". The insert contained a new section, entitled Subparagraph IV.G., "*New Manufactured Housing*," which replaced the Agency's former internal (Exhibit D) five-zone, thermal standard with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's), three-zone, thermal standard which is contained in the HUD "*Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standard*" (FMHCSS). New manufactured housing built to the FMHCSS was now to be automatically provided with a thermal certification sticker (usually located on a wall somewhere inside the home), commonly referred to as the HUD "*Comfort Heating and Comfort Cooling Certificate*", denoting for which HUD thermal zone the unit had been constructed.

This certificate listed only HUD thermal Zone 3 units as suitable for sale in Colorado. This made life easier as only a "3" on the line circled in the upper right corner of the certificate now needed to be verified for Agency funding in Colorado. The reason was that HUD thermal Zone 3 covered geographical areas with 4,501+ winter heating degree days and all areas of Colorado exceeded 5,000 winter heating degree days.

The former practice of submitting thermal data on a particular manufactured home model to the State Architect for review and later requiring the installation of a separate Rural Development thermal sticker on an erected unit was discontinued by the Special Procedure Notice. Please consult the State Architect should there be any further questions on this general subject.

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